



SKILLS WEST
MIDLANDS PRIZES

GOING FROM
STRENGTH
TO STRENGTH



REGIONAL REVIEW

The Newsletter from the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board

Midlands Region
November 2007

ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROVIDERS

The ECITB has been working with a number of Training Providers to deliver local training in the Midlands. Four Providers have been taken on: Lincoln College, Peterborough College, Sutton Coldfield College and Newcastle-under-Lyme College. The ECITB is also working with the Midland Group Training Centre to organise delivery of Project Design & Draughting and Project Control.

Newcastle-under-Lyme College is already a CoVE in electrical, electronic and process control engineering. The College will now carry out on-site N/SVQ assessments for apprentices throughout the Midlands region on behalf of the ECITB. Jason Lancaster is the Head of Faculty, Technology & Enterprise, "We're well known in the local area for the quality of our engineering training and hi-tech facilities, and we are very much looking forward to working with the ECITB to support companies across the region."

This is also the first time Peterborough Regional College has worked in partnership with the ECITB. They have taken on five ECITB apprentices but hope to build the relationship in the future and take on more. Sue Forsythe, the Apprenticeship Training Manager said, "The ECITB have plenty to offer us in terms of curriculum areas and support, so I hope to get a lot out of our new partnership."

Senior Account Manager Colin Grimes is also pleased with bringing new providers on board. "With the new resources available in the Midlands region, the delivery of ECITB apprenticeship programmes will be enhanced. They are now delivered locally, therefore reducing travel and accommodation costs. A lot of hard work has gone into the approval process of these new Training Providers and I would like to thank the Midlands team for their close work with the companies and providers in making this happen."



SIMPLY THE BEST!

Midlands apprentice Simon Latimer has been named as the ECITB Best Apprentice of the Year at the EAGIT training centre in Norfolk. He also won EAGIT's Best Electro-Technical Installation Apprentice.

Regional Account Manager Dug Harrison said, "It was an excellent achievement. The standard has been very high this year and Simon's Instructor has said that he and his fellow apprentices are the 'best group he's taught in some time.' I've been monitoring Simon's progress at EAGIT and he has consistently maintained a high quality and standard of work. He's been an exemplary apprentice at EAGIT and will be a great asset to his employer, PEME."

Karen Pike, PEME's HR Manager said, "We're obviously delighted that Simon has won this award. We've reviewed him over the year and he's consistently had good results, so we're very much looking forward to Simon joining PEME."

PICTURED ABOVE
RIGHT: EAGIT's ECITB
Apprentice of the Year
Simon Latimer

PICTURED LEFT:
Peterborough
Regional College



FULL STEAM AHEAD

BRAND NEW TRAINING FACILITY SET UP

Alstom Power Service officially launched its new steam engineering training centre in Rugby on 18th September. The facility is the only one of its kind in the country.

The steam turbine training facility is a brand new initiative. David Parnham is Alstom's Technical Training Manager, "We reserviced a turbine from an old power station and put it into the training school. This now gives us the facility to train apprentices and service engineers on steam turbine maintenance."

Colin Grimes is the ECITB's Senior Account Manager for the Midlands. "This initiative from Alstom will prove a valuable asset for the company in training employees to a highly skilled level. It will be of huge benefit in order to gain experience on a turbine in workshop conditions before progressing onto the real thing on-site. Apprentices in particular will now have a greater understanding of turbine work and this can only improve and increase productivity." Alstom's Managing Director, Steven Jones, is confident this move will improve the industry as a whole. "This investment is a demonstration of our long-term commitment to developing the vital skills required by our industry in the future."

The ECITB already do a lot of work with Alstom, being heavily involved with Technical, Supervisory and Management Programmes, as well as

having a large number of apprentices currently in training. Colin Grimes, has been working closely with Alstom to advise them on what they need to do to get things in place. "The training centre is close to our regional office, so I've been able to work very closely with the company."

The company has been approved to deliver ECITB N/SVQ qualifications and long-term is looking to get approval to deliver TECSkills training. David Parnham wants Alstom to become well known as a quality Training Provider. "This is a major investment for us and an indication of our commitment to training. When our school reaches the right standards, we'll be able to attract external candidates."

Colin Grimes thinks this will benefit the region. "Alstom has a good location in Rugby, and if they move into third party work, this will be excellent for the region as a whole."

Alstom will be opening a similar school in their Stafford workshops by the end of the year.

PICTURED BELOW:
Alstom's new steam engineering training centre



SKILLS WEST MIDLANDS PRIZES

The ECITB's Ian Walker and Marilyn Tovey presented prizes to two Midlands schools following the Skills West Midlands Careers Event reported in the April issue. The main competition tested students' observation skills, where answers to the questions were to be found on the ECITB stand. The winner was Kerry Dytor from Moseley Park School near Dudley who won an iPod for herself and a printer for her School (kindly donated by Stone & Webster, part of the Shaw Group). Russell Day from Sutton Coldfield College also won an iPod.

CHAIR'S OVERVIEW

Regional Chair Martyn Fletcher provides an update on what's been happening in the region.

"I'm delighted to report that the Midlands region has just taken on 50 company sponsored apprentices! There are also heavy TECSkills commitments from Doosan Babcock, TEC and Siemens.

In order to cope with the increasing demand, the region has set up contracts with new College Providers. The opening of the new training centre at Alstom is also a positive step in addressing industry skills needs.

This greater interest in engineering construction looks set to continue and I'm delighted to report strong commitment from regional employers to start the 2008 training preparation and recruitment process. They will begin with a regional sub-working group to work out the process for the apprenticeship delivery, planning and recruitment.

Welding apprentice Stuart Greer, who has followed NSDS training through his apprenticeship, was the winner of the UK Skillweld competition and will now be representing the UK in the WorldSkills Final in November. Over the summer he completed preparation training at Air Products, TWI and Doosan Babcock and was placed a very creditable sixth at an open welding competition in the USA. We all wish him the very best of luck!

Finally, a big thanks to outgoing Senior Account Manager Colin Grimes for his help and focused effort in the development of the Midlands region. I wish him well in his future role with ECITB's Offshore region."

MIDLANDS REGIONAL FORUM UPDATE

The most recent Regional Forum took place on 13 September at the Sketchley Grange Hotel, Hinckley, Leicestershire. Please find below the highlights of the forum:

- Performance for the last quarter & review and plans for the next quarter
- Midlands Regional Budget '07 – review and on target
- Regional Discretionary Training Fund – best use of fund
- Careers Roadshow touring the Midlands update
- Apprenticeship pledges 2008
- TECSkills Training Grants (from 1 Aug 2007)

For more detailed information view the minutes from the Forum at <http://www.ecitb.org.uk/midlandsregion-forum2007>

REGIONAL FORUM 2008 DATES*

7 February 2008
5 June 2008
9 October 2008

*Please note these dates may be subject to change.

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